

Amendment to the Specification

At page 1 of the SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION, please insert the following immediately below the title of the application:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority under International Application PCT/EP2003/050673, filed 30 September 2003, which claims priority from German Application DE 102 46 277.1, filed 2 October 2002.

At the last page of the SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION, please amend the **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE** as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a microscope and a stand (2) consisting of a first housing shell and a second housing shell ~~(16 and 18)~~. The first and second housing shells ~~(16 and 18)~~ define a base part (20) on which the stand (4) rests. The stand (4) is generally C-shaped, and a stand base cover (22) closes the stand (4) toward the outside. At least one connecting means (34) is provided for the first and second housing shells shell ~~(16 and 18)~~. The connecting means (34) is not accessible from outside the stand (4) when the stand base cover (22) is in place.